

records of this species that the occurrence is worth noting, but that is all there is to be said about it.—JOHN A. PARRY, 38 Heather Drive, St. Michaels, Tenterden, Kent.

[This interesting and distinctive black *Helophorus* is scarce throughout its Holarctic range and has only once been found in any numbers in Britain — on a peaty moor near Coatbridge, Lanark, mostly in 1911-12. The other records (a mere handful) are of single specimens in diverse situations, suggesting stragglers from undected colonies or, as some think, casual immigrants. Mr. Parry's capture should be a notable addition to the fauna of Somerset and is the first *Helophorus* I know of to have been beaten off flowers. — A.A.A.]

AN UNUSUAL PUPATION SITE.—I have read with interest Lt. Col. Emmet's note (*antea* 244) on his having hatched 16 specimens of *Ectoedemia argentipedella* (Zeller) from the contents of a nest box cleared out for the coming season. No mention is made of the bird which occupied the box, but I take it that the occupants were either blue tits or great tits.

Would it not be a more likely explanation of the presence of *argentipedella* to consider the possibility of their having been introduced to the box dangling from the side of a parental beak and dropped wide of the half a dozen or more competing gaping beaks of its young? These small larvae must be exceedingly difficult for the parent to retain in the beak when adding others to its collection, and to carry them home to their families.

Looking at almost any nepticulid larva, one sees that its claspers are hardly developed, and while they have a bad habit of slithering up the side of a glass tube and spinning up against the glass and the cork, one can hardly credit them with the ability to transport their bodies over what must be exceedingly rough and uneven surfaces leading down from a leaf mine in a tree into the entrance hole of an occupied nesting box.

On the other hand, it is a fairly general habit of nepticulid larvae when kept in a breeding receptacle for the cocoons to be spun in a fairly close colony, but when a comparison is made between the distances separating the individuals in say a three inch diameter tin box, and in the full area of a birch tree from mine to nest box, one can hardly think that the gathering instinct could extend so far.—S. N. A. JACOBS, 54 Hayes Lane, Bromley, Kent, BR2 9EE. 23.xii.1978.

OCTOBER IN SCILLY.—I visited the Isles of Scilly from 4th to 18th October 1978. Based on St. Mary's I made day trips to St. Agnes, St. Martin's and Tresco. The weather was excellent and most days were warm and sunny enough to tempt butterflies on the wing.

I recorded the following species: *Pararge aegeria* L., easily the commonest species and seen on all islands visited. *Maniola jurtina* L., two late specimens on St. Martin's on 11th October. *Vanessa atalanta* L., seen on all islands visited in small numbers and on St. Mary's imbibing at ivy flowers. *Polyommatus icarus* Rott., a fleeting view of a blue on St.